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News Release

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Interactive Pixel Wall Mural Coming Soon to Durham Central Park

November 4 Opening Ceremony Set; Second Major Public Art Installation Along
Durham SmART Corridor

DURHAM, N.C. – The Liberty Warehouse Wall at Durham Central Park will soon have new interactive public art on display and the Durham community is invited to the early November opening ceremony.

Hosted by the City of Durham and Durham Central Park, the opening ceremony will take place on the east side of park, which is located at 501 Foster St, on Sunday, November 4 at 2 p.m. At this event, community members will have the opportunity to meet the artist collective behind the mural, Pixel Patch Creative, and create pixel murals of their own. The Opening Ceremony will take place alongside the Durham Central Park Food Truck Rodeo, and marks the second major public art installation along the Durham SmART corridor.

The public art installation, titled A Story Goes On, was created to facilitate an interactive, engaging artistic experience in the heart of downtown Durham in which visitors are encouraged to create murals using moveable pixel blocks. To celebrate the region's incredible artistic legacy, *The Story Goes On*, provides space for emerging creative visions and pays particular tribute to local visionaries and thought leaders who have used their craft to advance social change.

Durham Central Park, Inc., Liberty Warehouse Apartments, and the City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development, General Services Department, Durham Parks and Recreation, Public Art Committee, and the Artist Selection Committee selected Pixel Patch Creative as the artist team to design and install public art for the Liberty Warehouse Wall. This selection followed a participatory review process of 104 artist applications from across the United States responding to a national call for qualifications released in September 2017.

For more information about this public art installation or its opening ceremony, contact Special Projects Manager Stacey Poston with the City's General Services Development at (919) 560-4197, ext. 21254 or by email.

About Pixel Patch Creative

<u>Pixel Patch Creative</u> is an artist collective founded to promote inclusive community engagement. Their work is hosted in public spaces to support place-making, tactile interactions, and multi-layered dialogue. Pixel Patch Creative design simple tools so communities have accessible ways to express themselves creatively. For more information, follow on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

About the SmART Vision Plan

In 2012, the City of Durham was selected as one of five cities in North Carolina to participate in the 2012 North Carolina Arts Council's SmART Initiative to demonstrate how creative placemaking revitalizes downtowns and fuels sustainable economic development. The Durham Arts Council, in

partnership with the City of Durham, Durham County, and multiple private partners and community stakeholders, worked with award winning landscape architect and urban designer Mikyoung Kim, creating a SmART Vision Plan, which reimagines the rapidly transforming north-south corridor straight through downtown. For more information, visit https://www.smartdurham.org.

About Durham Central Park, Inc.

Durham Central Park, Inc., is a 501(c)3 organization that holds a management agreement to operate, develop, and program Durham Central Park, a five-acre, City-owned park in downtown Durham. Durham Central Park features numerous gardens, paths and benches, open fields, kids play area, climbable sculptures, a skate park, and a large pavilion that is home to the farmers' market and other community events. For more information, follow on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

About the City of Durham General Services Department

The General Services Department builds and maintains City properties to make Durham a great place for people to live, work, and play. Guided by the City's Strategic Plan, the department's core functions include the acquisition and sale of properties, design and management of new construction and renovation projects, building maintenance, landscaping and urban forestry services, cemeteries management, sustainability and energy management, cultural and public art program management, and supporting the nonprofit Keep Durham Beautiful.

About the City of Durham Public Art Committee

The Public Art Committee serves as an advisory body to the Durham City Council and the City Manager, and its functions include assisting the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development on matters relating to public art; implementation of the Public Art Policy; and reviewing proposals for public art projects brought to it by the City administration; and making recommendations to the Cultural Advisory Board regarding project approvals. To further help artists connect with opportunities, the City has a Durham Calls for Artists page on its website, which lists a number of upcoming opportunities for artists in and around Durham. Artists and other stakeholders who would like to be notified of current and future art-related opportunities and news can now sign up for alerts through the Cultural and Public Art mailing list. For more information about the City's Public Art Program, visit the City's publicart web page. Artists interested in more information about the Public Art program may also contact Special Projects Manager Stacey Poston with the City's General Services Development at (919) 560-4197, ext. 21254 or by email.

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